

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 227966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, FR

SUBJECT: PROBABLE CLOSURE OF FORD PLANT IN FRANCE

1. MERV MANNING, VICE PRESIDENT AND GENERAL MANAGER OF FORD TRACTOR OPERATIONS REQUESTS APPOINTMENT WITH AMBASSADOR HARTMAN TUESDAY AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 26. MANNING WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS FORD DECISION TO PHASE DOWN RICHIER SA, FORD-OWNED HEAVY EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER (PLEASE HOLD CLOSELY).

2. RICHIER EMPLOYS 2900 AND FORD FULLY AWARE SENSITIVE IMPLICATIONS PHASE DOWN WOULD HAVE FOR GOF. MANNING ALSO HAS APPOINTMENT SAME DAY WITH MINISTER OF INDUSTRY. MANNING WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MSSRS. WITS AND KOWALESKY OF FORD TRACTOR, AND MR. JAMES O'BOYLE OF FORD MOTOR CO. OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL. FORD ANXIOUS TO CONSULT WITH EMBASSY ON THIS MATTER GIVEN LOSS OF SEVERAL THOUSAND JOBS AND PROBABLE PUBLICITY SHOULD PHASE-DOWN OCCUR.

3. PLEASE INFORM DEPARTMENT RE APPOINTMENT. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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